Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamilnadu during the year 2007-08 as comparing to 2006-07.

(c) and (d) State Governments have been empowered under section 23C of the MMDR Act to frame rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation of minerals, etc. Ministry of Mines is taking pro-active steps to prevent illegal mining and has devised a three-pronged action strategy, asking State Governments for constitution of Task Force/Flying Squads at both State and District level, framing of rules for prevention of illegal mining, etc. and to furnish quarterly return to the Ministry of Mines on the steps taken to check illegal mining for review.

Illegal Mining in Aravalli Range

937. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the ban enforced by Supreme Court on mining in the Aravalli ranges, illegal mining continues in the region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to stop this?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per information available from State Government of Haryana, there is no illegal mining in Aravalli Hill Range areas in the State of Haryana, where the Hon'ble Supreme Court has enforced ban/suspended mining activities.

(c) To ensure the compliance of the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the State Government of Haryana has constituted a District Level Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner with Superintendent of Police and other Senior functionaries as member in each of the concerned district. The task force is entrusted with the responsibility of keeping a watch and ensuring complete compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Mining rights to MMTC

938. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government accorded approval during March-April, 2009, granting mining rights for Ramandurg iron-ore mine in Karnataka to Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC), in preference to the demand of another PSU, namely National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC);

(b) if so, the details regarding the process which culminated into grant of the mining right to MMTC, including details of notification, if any, issued in this regard;

(c) the rationale behind selection of MMTC in the matter, and not the NMDC; and

(d) whether MMTC is eligible to sell the mining right to any private entrepreneur?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Central Government has not issued any notification regarding reservation of area in Ramandurga Range, Bellary district, Karnataka in favour of MMTC.